IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

IN RE:)
RUBY STREETER,) CASE NUMBER:) 1:07-CV-97
PLAINTIFF,)
vs.)
OFFICE OF DOUGLAS R. BURGESS, LLC., ET AL.,)
DEFENDANT.))

PLAINTIFF'S RESPONSE TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO QUASH SUBPOENAS

Comes now the Plaintiff in Response to the Defendant's Motion to Quash Subpoenas. The Defendant argues that the subpoenas should be quashed because it did not receive notice fo the subpoenas prior to issuance. In response, the Plaintiff states as follows:

FACTS

- 1. On August 6, 2008, the undersigned's staff member transmitted by email and facsimile copy, a notice of the subpoenas to Blake Andrews, Fern Singer and Stacey Davis. A copy of the email transmission is attached as Exhibit "1."
- 2. On the evening of August 6, 2008, the undersigned realized that he placed his Dothan, Alabama, address for return of the subpoenaed documents. Nevertheless, Defense Counsel had actual notice of the subpoenas on August 6, 2007.
- 3. On August 7, 2008, in contemplation of the Defendant's Motion to Quash and to satisfy the 100 mile rule as set forth in Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 45(b)(2)(B), the undersigned reissued the subpoenas with return of production of documents to Kenneth Hiller, Esquire, 2001 Niagara Falls Boulevard, Amherst, New York 14228. Updated notices of the subpoenas were also transmitted by the undersigned to Defense Counsel. A copy of the August 7, 2008, email is attached hereto as

Exhibit "2."

- On August 7, 2008, the undersigned placed the subpoenas in the United States 4. Mail with service to be perfected by certified Mail. A copy of the envelopes containing the subpoena's are attached hereto as Exhibit "3."
- On August 11, 2008, Meridian Capital and Bank of the Finger Lakes were served by 5. certified mail. A copy of the proof of service of the Subpoena's is attached hereto as Exhibits "4" and "5."
- Defendant's argument regarding notice is without merit. The undersigned readily 6. admits that his office procedure was not followed for prior issuance of subpoenas which this Honorable Court Ouashed on August 1, 2008 (Doc. #139). As to the current subpoenas, the undersigned provided Defense Counsel Notice of the most recent subpoenas prior to service of the subpoenas. In fact, the Defendant was afforded notice of the subpoenas prior to their issuance. Furthermore, the Defendant filed its Motion to Quash prior to any third party returning the requested documents. The filing of the Defendant's Motion to Quash serves as evidence that the Defendants have suffered no prejudice due to the timing of the notice provided by the Plaintiff.

<u>ARGUMENT</u>

Rule 45(c)(3) sets forth the grounds to quash or modify a subpoena. The Defendant's entire argument neglects to cite one single factor in rule 45(c)(3) as grounds for quashing the subpoenas at issue. Even a lack of "prior notice" as the Defendant alleges is not grounds for quashing a subpoena. The Defendant's argument is really one of length of notice prior to service. As this Court is aware, the Plaintiff has only a very short time frame to seek discovery related to personal jurisdiction. Three Defendants have moved to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction (Doc. #'s 94, 95, and 144). The pertinent portion of Rule 45 states that "[i]f the subpoena commands the production of documents, electronically stored information, or tangible things . . . before trial,

then before it is served, a notice must be served on each party." Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 45(b).

The Defendant's major emphasis in its Motion to Quash focuses on notice prior to issuance of the subpoenas. Def's Motion ¶ 1("No prior notice of the issuance of the subpoenas was given."); ¶ 3("Neither FA Holdings Group, nor any other defendant, had an opportunity to object to the subpoenas before they were issued "); ¶ 4 ("Plaintiff failed to give proper notice before the issuance of those subpoenas "); ¶ 6 ("Plaintiffs failure to provide proper notice before issuing the subpoenas.")(emphasis added).

"Notice" prior to issuance of the subpoenas is not required by Rule 45(b). One Court in this circuit, addressing the issue of notice prior to the service, held that the "prior notice" requirement is satisfied when notice is provided contemporaneously with service of the subpoenas. Fla. Media, Inc. v. World Publ'ns, LLC, 236 F.R.D. 693, 695 (M.D. Fla. 2006) ("This Court rules that 'prior notice' to other parties is satisfied when notice is given simultaneously with the service of the subpoena."). Moore's Federal Practice points out that, in 2007, "the rule was redrafted to clarify that notice must be provided prior to the date of service of the subpoena..." 9-45 Moore's Federal Practice - Civil § 45.21. Another Court in this circuit also found the "prior notice" requirement satisfied when the Plaintiff notified the Defendant "contemporaneously with the issuance." Nucletron Corp., USA v. Alpha-Omega Servs., 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 20556 (M.D. Fla. Apr. 18, 2006).

Rule 45 does not require "prior notice of the issuance" of a subpoena. The Plaintiff, as a condition precedent to service, provided counsel with notice of the subpoenas. Rule 45 does not set forth a time frame for notice on opposing counsel. Nonetheless, Defense Counsel was provided notice of the subpoena on August 6, 2008, the day before the issuance of the subpoenas to the third parties. The subpoenas were served on the third party recipients by certified mail on August 11, 2008, when Bank of the Finger Lakes and Meridian Capital signed for and received the subpoenas by certified mail.

The Defendant's tactic from the inception of litigation has been to hinder and delay the progress of the case. The Defendant's self serving statements that "Plaintiffs subpoenas seek such irrelevant documents as lease agreements between Meridian Capital Corporation and FA Holdings and [s]uch documents cannot possibly be relevant to Plaintiffs claims" are without merit. The Plaintiff, in addition to FDCPA claims, has set forth an Alabama Common Law Civil Conspiracy count that alleges that all of the Defendants acting as a single enterprise conspired to collect debts through unlawful means. The Plaintiff also alleges that several of the Defendants control the debt collection enterprise.

The subpoenas issued to Meridian Capital Corporation and Bank of the Finger Lakes command these third parties to produce various written and electronic documents evidencing the relationship between named Defendants. Specifically, the subpoenas request documents regarding leases and loans which the Plaintiff contends serve as financing for the Defendants' elaborate debt collection enterprise. The existence of loans by one Defendant to finance one or more of the other Defendants would remove any doubt as to the relationship between the parties.

While the Plaintiff has not seen the requested documents, the Plaintiff believes that the documents may provide evidence of transfer of assets from one entity to another to confound enforcement of the rights created by Congress under the FDCPA. The evidence may also prove that some of the Defendants are in fact in control of the entire debt collection enterprise. Such proof would go directly to the personal jurisdiction issue currently pending before this Honorable Court. If in fact the documents prove to be irrelevant, then the Plaintiff will have no use for such documents and ultimately may be unsuccessful in gaining personal jurisdiction.

Wherefore, the Plaintiff requests that this Honorable Court deny the Defendant's Motion to Quash and for all other relief as is just.

Respectfully submitted this 14th day of August, 2008.

BROCK & STOUT

David G. Poston, Esq. Walter A. Blakeney, Esq. Michael D. Brock, Esq. Gary W. Stout, Esq. Post Office Drawer 311167

Enterprise, Alabama 36330 334-671-5555

334-671-5555

David G. Poston

334-671-2689 Facsimile Email: christal@circlecitylaw.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I have this date served a copy of the foregoing upon the following via United States Mail, postage prepaid and fully addressed *and* by electronic mail **14**th day of August, 2008.

Fern H. Singer
Stacey A. Davis
BAKER, DONELSON, BEARMAN
CALDWELL & BERKOWITZ, P.C.
420 North 20th Street, Suite 1600
Birmingham, Alabama 35203-5202
Email: fsinger@bakerdonelson.com
sdavis@bakerdonelson.com

Blake D. Andrews Starnes & Atchison, LLP 100 Brookwood Place, 7th Floor P.O. Box 598512 Birmingham, Alabama 35259 Email: bda@starneslaw.com

Filed 08/14/2008

Christal Robertson

Christal Robertson [christal@circlecitylaw.com] From:

Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 2008 5:08 PM

Case 1:07-cv-00097-WKW-CSC

To: 'Davis, Stacey'; 'fsinger@bakerdonelson.com'; 'bda@starneslaw.com'

Cc: 'Walter Blakeney'; 'David Poston'

Subject: RE: Streeter v. Burgess, et al., ALMD Case No.: 1:07-cv-97

Attached is are the corrected subpoenas. They are also being faxed. As stated previously, please confirm your receipt of same.

Christal A. Robertson Legal Assistant to David G. Poston Legal Assistant to Walter A. Blakeney BROCK & STOUT, LLC. Post Office Drawer 311167 Enterprise, Alabama 36331 (334)671-5555 christal@circlecitylaw.com

From: Davis, Stacey [mailto:sdavis@bakerdonelson.com]

Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 2008 4:54 PM

To: Christal Robertson; Singer, Fern; bda@starneslaw.com

Cc: David Poston; Walter Blakeney

Subject: RE: Streeter v. Burgess, et al., ALMD Case No.: 1:07-cv-97

I am unable to tell from the attached documents whether these subpoenas were served on these parties as of today or that you are providing us the requisite notice that you intend to serve these subpoenas. Please advise ASAP.

Stacey A. Davis

Attorney Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, P.C. 420 20th Street North Wachovia Tower, Suite 1600 Birmingham, AL 35203 Direct: 205.244.3800 Fax: 205.488.3800 E-mail: sdavis@bakerdonelson.com www.bakerdonelson.com

Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz represents clients across the U.S. and abroad from offices in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Washington, D.C. and a representative office in Beijing, China.

From: Christal Robertson [mailto:christal@circlecitylaw.com]

Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 2008 4:38 PM

To: Singer, Fern; Davis, Stacey; bda@starneslaw.com

Cc: 'David Poston'; 'Walter Blakeney'

Subject: Streeter v. Burgess, et al., ALMD Case No.: 1:07-cv-97

Dear Counsel:



Attached are third party subpoenas for your records. Additional copies will be sent via facsimile this afternoon. Please confirm your receipt of same.

Sincerely,

Christal A. Robertson Legal Assistant to David G. Poston Legal Assistant to Walter A. Blakeney BROCK & STOUT, LLC. Post Office Drawer 311167 Enterprise, Alabama 36331 (334)671-5555 christal@circlecitylaw.com

This email is covered by the Electronic Communications privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510 and is legally privileged. This information is confidential information and is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you received this message in error, please respond to the sender at once.

Under requirements imposed by the IRS, we inform you that, if any advice concerning one or more U.S. federal tax issues is contained in this communication (including in any attachments and, if this communication is by email, then in any part of the same series of emails), such advice was not intended or written by the sender or by Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (1) avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or (2) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any transaction or tax-related matter addressed herein.

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David Poston

From:

David Poston [david@circlecitylaw.com]

Sent:

Thursday, August 07, 2008 11:20 AM

To:

'Blake Andrews'; 'Davis, Stacey'; 'Singer, Fern'

Subject:

Streeter

Attachments: 20080807 Meridian Cap Corpo 2d Correct Subpoena pdf; 20080807 Bank Finger Lakes 2d

Correct Subpoena.pdf

Counsel:

Last night I realized that I did not include a local (New York) address for production of the documents. As such, I retrieved the certified mail from the mailbox and replaced it with the following corrected, an hopefully last, subpoenas.

Sincerely,

David G. Poston

David G. Poston **BROCK & STOUT** P. O. Drawer 311167 Enterprise, AL 36331-1167 david@circlecitylaw.com

334-671-2044

This email is covered by the Electronic Communications privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510 and is legally privileged. This information is confidential information and is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you received this message in error, please respond to the sender at once.



PLACE STICKER AT TOP OF ENVELOPE TO THE RIGHT OF THE RETURN ADDRESS, FOLD AT COTTED LINE

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION		COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY					
 Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired. Print your name and address on the reverse. 	- 11	A. Signature				☐ Agent☐ Addressee	
 so that we can return the card to you. Attach this card to the back of the mailpie or on the front if space permits. 	се,		ed by (<i>Prin</i>			Date of Delivery	
Mendian Capital Lorg Htm: Paul Maciastek	O. Ever	D. Is delivery address different from item 1?					
Chairman 34 Kirkby Trail Fairport 1841450	<u>[</u>						
		4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)			e)	☐ Yes	
2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)	7007	3020	0000	2943	6740		
PS Form 3811, February 2004 Dor	mestic Retu	m Receipt				102595-02-M-154	



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BROCK & STOUT POST OFFICE DRAWER 311167 ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA 36331-1167 LAW OFFICES OF



SOLSTINE OF THE PARTY OF THE PA

Attn: Paul T. Maciaslek, Chairman or CEO Meridian Capital Corporation Fairport, New York 14450 36 Kirkby Trail

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY			
 Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired. Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you. Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits. 	A. Signature X			
Bank of the First Lakes A unit of USNY Bank 329 Hamilton St.	D. Is delivery address different from item 1?			
Ceneval, Ny 144570	3. Sortice Type Certified Mail			
2. Article Number (Transfer from service label) 7007 300	4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)			
PS Form 3811, February 2004 Domestic Retr	urn Rocolpt 102595-02-M-1540			





POST OFFICE DRAWER 311167 ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA 36331-1167

LAW OFFICES OF

Bank of the Finger Lakes, a unit of USNY Bank 389 Hamilton Street Geneva, New York 14456 Attention R. Michael Briggs

AO88 (Rev. 12/06) Subpoena in a Civil Case PROOF OF SERVICE DATE 36 Kirkby Trail, Fairport, New York 14450 SERVED MANNER OF SERVICE SERVED ON (PRINT NAME) Mendian Capital VIA CERTIFIED MAIL Corporation SERVED BY (PRINT NAME) TITLE Attorney for Plaintiff DAVID G. POSTON, ESQ. DECLARATION OF SERVER I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing information contained in the Proof of Service is true and correct. Executed on SIGNATURE OF SERVER 200 Parkwest Circle, Suite 1, Dothan, Alabama 36303 ADDRESS OF SERVER

Rule 45, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Subdivisions (c), (d), and (e), as amended on December 1, 2006:

(c) PROTECTION OF PERSONS SUBJECT TO SUBPOENAS.

(1) A party or an attorney responsible for the issuance and service of a subpoena shall take reasonable steps to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on a person subject to that subpoena. The court on behalf of which the subpoena was issued shall enforce this duty and impose upon the party or attorney in breach of this duty an appropriate sanction, which may include, but is not limited to, lost earnings and a reasonable attorney's fee.

(2) (A) A person commanded to produce and permit inspection, copying, testing, or sampling of designated electronically stored information, books, papers, documents or tangible things, or inspection of premises need not appear in person at the place of production or inspection unless commanded to appear for deposition, hearing or trial.

(B) Subject to paragraph (d)(2) of this rule, a person commanded to produce and permit inspection, copying, testing, or sampling may, within 14 days after service of the subpoena before the time specified for compliance if such time is less than 14 days after service, serve upon the party or attorney designated in the subpoena written objection to producing any or all of the designated materials or inspection of the premises — or to producing electronically stored information in the form or forms requested. If objection is made, the party serving the subpoena shall not be entitled to inspect, copy, test, or sample the materials or inspect the premises except pursuant to an order of the court by which the subpoena was issued. If objection has been made, the party serving the subpoena may, upon notice to the person commanded to produce, move at any time for an order to compel the production, inspection, copying, testing, or sampling Such an order to compel shall protect any person who is not a party or an officer of a party from significant expense resulting from the inspection, copying, testing, or sampling commanded.

(3) (A) On timely motion, the court by which a subpoena was issued shall quash or modify the subpoena if it

(i) fails to allow reasonable time for compliance;

(ii) requires a person who is not a party or an officer of a party to travel to a place more than 100 miles from the place where that person resides, is employed or regularly transacts business in person, except that, subject to the provisions of clause (eX3XBXiii) of this rule, such a person may in order to attend trial be commanded to travel from any such place within the state in which the trial is held;

(iii) requires disclosure of privileged or other protected matter and no exception or waiver applies; or

(iv) subjects a person to undue burden.

(B) If a subpoena

 (i) requires disclosure of a trade secret or other confidential research, development, or commercial information, or

(ii) requires disclosure of an unretained expert's opinion or information not describing specific events or occurrences in dispute and resulting from the expert's study made not at the request of any party, or

(iii) requires a person who is not a party or an officer of a party to incur substantial

(iii) requires a person who is not a party or an officer of a party to incur substantial expense to travel more than 100 miles to attend trial, the court may, to protect a person subject to or affected by the subpoena, quash or modify the subpoena or, if the party in whose behalf the subpoena is issued shows a substantial need for the testimony or material that cannot be otherwise met without undue hardship and assures that the person to whom the subpoena is addressed will be reasonably compensated, the court may order appearance or production only upon specified conditions.

(d) DUTIES IN RESPONDING TO SURPOFNA

(1) (A) A person responding to a subpoena to produce documents shall produce them as
they are kept in the usual course of business or shall organize and label them to correspond with
the categories in the demand.

(B) If a subpoena does not specify the form or forms for producing electronically stored information, a person responding to a subpoena must produce the information in a form or forms in which the person ordinarily maintains it or in a form or forms that are reasonably usable.

(C) A person responding to a subpoena need not produce the same electronically stored information in more than one form.

(D) A person responding to a subpoena need not provide discovery of electronically stored information from sources that the person identifies as not reasonably accessible because of undue burden or cost. On motion to compel discovery or to quash, the person from whom discovery is sought must show that the information sought is not reasonably accessible because of undue burden or cost. If that showing is made, the court may nonetheless order discovery from such sources if the requesting party shows good cause, considering the limitations of Rule 26(b)(2)(C). The court may specify conditions for the discovery.

(2) (A) When information subject to a subpoena is withheld on a claim that it is privileged or subject to protection as trial-preparation materials, the claim shall be made expressly and shall be supported by a description of the nature of the documents, communications, or things not produced that is sufficient to enable the demanding party to contest the claim.

(B) If information is produced in response to a subpoena that is subject to a claim of privilege or of protection as trial-preparation material, the person making the claim may notify any party that received the information of the claim and the basis for it. After being potified, a party must promptly return, sequester, or destroy the specified information and any copies it has and may not use or disclose the information until the claim is resolved. A receiving party may promptly present the information to the court under seal for a determination of the claim. If the receiving party disclosed the information before being notified, it must take reasonable steps to retrieve it. The person who produced the information must preserve the information until the claim is resolved.

(e) CONTEMPT. Failure of any person without adequate excuse to obey a subpoena served upon that person may be deemed a contempt of the court from which the subpoena issued. An adequate cause for failure to obey exists when a subpoena pure

PLAINTIFF'S

EXHIBIT

attend or produce at a place not within the limits provided (cX3XA).



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AO88 (Rev. 12/06) Subpoena in a Civil Case. PROOF OF SERVICE 389 Hamilton St., Geneva, NY 14456 SERVED SERVED ON (PRINT NAME) MANNER OF SERVICE Sank of the VIA CERTIFIED MAIL SERVED BY PRINT NAME TITLE DAVID G. POSTON, ESQ. Attorney for Plaintiff DECLARATION OF SERVER I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing information contained

in the Proof of Service is true and correct.

Executed on

SIGNATURE OF SERVER

200 Parkwest Circle, Suite 1, Dothan, Alabama 36303

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(2) (A) A person commanded to produce and permit inspection, copying, testing, or sampling of designated electronically stored information, books, papers, documents or tangible things, or inspection of premises need not appear in person at the place of production or inspection unless commanded to appear for deposition, hearing or trial.

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(3) (A) On timely motion, the court by which a subpoena was issued shall quash or modify the subpoena if it

(i) fails to allow reasonable time for compliance;

(ii) requires a person who is not a party or an officer of a party to travel to a place more than 100 miles from the place where that person resides, is employed or regularly transacts business in person, except that, subject to the provisions of clause (eX3XBXiii) of this rule, such a person may in order to attend trial be commanded to travel from any such place within the state in which the trial is held:

(iii) requires disclosure of privileged or other protected matter and no exception or waiver applies; or

(iv) subjects a person to undue burden

(B) If a subpoena

(i) requires disclosure of a trade secret or other confidential research, development, or commercial information, or

(ii) requires disclosure of an unretained expert's opinion or information not describing specific events or occurrences in dispute and resulting from the expert's study made not at the request of any party, or

(iii) requires a person who is not a party or an officer of a party to incur substantial expense to travel more than 100 miles to attend trial, the court may, to protect a person subject to or affected by the subpoena, quash or modify the subpoena or, if the party in whose behalf the subpoena is issued shows a substantial need for the testimony or material that cannot be otherwise met without undue hardship and assures that the person to whom the subpoena is addressed will be reasonably compensated, the court may order appearance or production only upon specified conditions.

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(2) (A) When information subject to a subpoena is withheld on a claim that it is privileged or subject to protection as trial-preparation materials, the claim shall be made expressly and shall be supported by a description of the nature of the documents, communications, or things not produced that is sufficient to enable the demanding party to contest the claim.

(B) If information is produced in response to a subpoena that is subject to a claim of privilege or of protection as trial-preparation material, the person making the claim may notify any party that received the information of the claim and the basis for it. After being notified, a party must promptly return, sequester, or destroy the specified information and any copies it has and may not use or disclose the information until the claim is resolved. A receiving party may promptly present the information to the court under seal for a determination of the claim. If the receiving party disclosed the information before being notified, it must take reasonable steps to retrieve it. The person who produced the information must preserve the information until the claim is resolved.

(e) CONTEMPT. Failure of any person without adequate excuse to obey a subpoena served upon that person may be deemed a contempt of the court from which the subpoena issued. An adequate cause for failure to obey exists when a subpoena purports to require a nonparty to attend or produce at a place not within the limits provided by el (c)(3)(A).

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT



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